

Ref. T2/5.01

AREA SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANS

Notification of an agreement on search and rescue regions in accordance with paragraph 2.1.4 of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979*

Notification by Argentina and Uruguay

1 The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication received from the Government of Argentina on an agreement on search and rescue regions between Argentina and Uruguay in accordance with paragraph 2.1.4 of the 1979 SAR Convention.

2 The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

* This notification was originally circulated under the symbol SAR.3/Circ.4. All future notifications will be circulated as SAR.6 circulars.

**Letter from the Permanent Alternate Representative,
Argentine Embassy, London, dated 20 January 1993,
addressed to the Secretary-General**

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

In compliance with the decision of the Under-Secretary for Maritime Affairs of the General Secretariat of the Navy, I hereby inform you that on 30 November 1992 the Chief of Staff of the Argentine Navy and the Commander-in-Chief of the Uruguayan Navy signed an Act and Agreement of Co-operation for Maritime and River Search and Rescue, copies of which are attached.

I bring this matter to your attention so that consideration may be given to the possibility of issuing these texts as an information document for the twenty-fourth session of the Sub-Committee on Life-Saving, Search and Rescue.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed)

Hector Julio Alvarez

General Command of the Navy

Republic of Uruguay

ACT

In Montevideo, on the 30th day of October 1992, meeting in the office of the General Command of the Navy, the Chief of Staff of the Argentine Navy, Admiral Jorge Osvaldo Ferrer, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Uruguayan Navy, Vice-Admiral James Coates, with the object of promoting the safety of human life at sea, within the framework of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue 1979;

Noting that the Annex to the Convention referred to recommends that the Parties conclude with neighbouring States agreements of co-operation on search and rescue, the object of which would be the joint use of each other's facilities, the establishing of uniform procedures, the development of joint exercises, periodic reviews of channels of communication, and the exchange of information on search and rescue;

In consideration of the objectives of the International Convention on Search and Rescue 1979, which are to develop and promote search and rescue activities through the establishment of an international maritime search and rescue plan for the rescue of persons in peril at sea, and to promote co-operation between search and rescue organizations;

Recognizing the desirability of making the said Hamburg Convention 1979 applicable to the body of water covered by the Treaty of the River Plate and its offshore waters, and by the Treaty of the River Uruguay, approved by both countries;

Resolving to establish a basis for wider co-operation between the two Navies and to strengthen the well-established bonds of traditional friendship and deep affection between them;

ARE AGREED

1 To approve the text of the Agreement of Co-operation on Maritime Search and Rescue between the Argentine Navy and the Uruguayan Navy, attached hereto;

2 To bring the text referred to in paragraph 1 to the attention of the competent authorities of each State for their approval.

Admiral Jorge Osvaldo FERRER
Chief of Staff
Argentine Navy

Vice-Admiral James COATES
Commander-in-Chief
Uruguayan Navy

General command of the Navy

Republic of Uruguay

**AGREEMENT OF CO-OPERATION ON MARITIME AND RIVER
SEARCH AND RESCUE BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE NAVY
AND THE URUGUAYAN NAVY**

Article 1

APPLICATION

The present Agreement is between the Maritime and River SAR Authorities of the Republic of Argentina and the Search and Rescue Service of the Republic of Uruguay, and applies to the southwestern Atlantic, the River Plate and the River Uruguay.

The expression "Búsqueda y Rescate" used by the Navy of the Republic of Uruguay in its Agreement is similar in scope and content to the expression "Búsqueda y Salvamento" used by the Argentine Navy and by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Article 2

JURISDICTION

The search and rescue regions in the maritime zone of the southwestern Atlantic are those declared by the Parties to IMO, the common boundary being fixed as the lateral maritime limit of offshore waters up to the intersection of that limit with the boundary of the exclusive economic zone (200 nautical miles) and from there east by the parallel 37° 56'S to the meridian of 10° W. Both Parties agree that this boundary will be reconsidered in the event that both States agree on the extension of the lateral maritime limit to the continental margin.

The search and rescue areas of the River Plate and River Uruguay are delineated in the Treaty of the River Plate and its Offshore Waters and in the Treaty of the Limits of the River Uruguay.

Nothing in the present Agreement shall prejudice any present or future claims or legal opinions on the part of either Party to the present Agreement, in respect of the Law of the Sea and the nature and scope of the jurisdiction of the coastal and flag State, nor is it intended to alter or modify the content or spirit of the Treaties referred to above.

Article 3

ALERT

Requests for assistance involving the participation of the Search and Rescue organization of the other Party shall be submitted by the Argentine Navy through Argentina's National, Maritime, River and Lakes SAR Agency to the SAR co-ordinating centre of the Navy of the Republic of Uruguay, and vice-versa.

Article 4

CO-ORDINATION

Search and rescue operations in Argentina's area of responsibility shall be co-ordinated by the Puerte Belgrano SAR Co-ordinating Centre in the maritime area of the southwestern Atlantic, and by the Beunos Aires SAR Co-ordinating Centre in the areas of the River Plate and River Uruguay, while search and rescue operations in Uruguay's area of responsibility shall be co-ordinated by the SAR Co-ordinating Centre of the Navy of the Republic of Uruguay, unless otherwise agreed at the time the situation arises in which assistance is called for.

When the situation requires it, SAR co-ordinating centres may agree on other forms of co-operation or other designations of responsibilities or tasks. The boundary between the search and rescue areas of the two Parties in the maritime area of the southwestern Atlantic shall not in any way constitute an obstacle to co-operation between the Parties in such operations. Similarly, operations shall be carried out in the area covered by the Treaty of the River Plate and its Offshore Waters and the Statute of the River Uruguay on the same basis as is provided for in those Treaties.

IMO's IMOSAR and MERSAR manuals, and the terminology contained therein, together with any corrections and modifications thereto, shall be adopted.

Agreement shall be reached on the means of communication for transmitting information on SAR cases between authorities, and on the circuits to be used for communication with facilities carrying out SAR operations. The SITREP format of the IMOSAR manual shall be used.

Article 5

ADMISSION

Each Party to the present Agreement shall take the necessary steps to ensure that both the air and ground units of the maritime search and rescue organization of the other Party are brought under its jurisdiction, with a view to making the present Agreement effective. Any request for admission to jurisdiction under the provisions of the present Agreement shall be transmitted through the SAR Co-ordinating Centre of the Party concerned.

Article 6

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Both Parties to the present Agreement shall exchange information on the location of SAR units and equipment and on their capacity and availability, and shall also exchange operational plans and lists of the measures which need to be adopted to meet the different kinds of situation which assistance is called for. In this connection, the Parties undertake to keep updated the information published in IMO documents SAR.3/Circ.3.

Article 7

EXERCISES

The Parties shall carry out, jointly and on an annual basis, a maritime or river SAR exercise, with simulated incidents, for the training of SAR organizations. These exercises shall be organized and managed alternately.

Article 8

MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES

When the need arises, or in any case at least once a year, representatives of the competent authorities of the SAR organizations of the Parties shall hold meetings with a view to fostering co-operation and the exchange of information and experience.

The Parties shall hold regional conferences when necessary with a view to maintaining effective operational co-ordination between SAR services in the region.

Article 9

LANGUAGE

In search and rescue operations, exercises and meetings, the Spanish language shall be used in the first instance.

Article 10

OPERATING COSTS

Each Party undertakes to meet its own costs arising from implementation of the present Agreement.

Article 11

ENTRY INTO FORCE AND WITHDRAWAL

The present Agreement shall enter into force when it has been signed by the competent SAR authorities of both Parties, and shall remain in force for three months after one of the Parties has withdrawn from it.

Article 12

AMENDMENTS

The present Agreement may be amended on the proposal of one of the Parties, and any amendment thereto shall enter into force one month after having been approved by both Parties.

Article 13

TEXT

The present text is done in duplicate in the Spanish language, each copy being equally authentic.

(signed)

Admiral Jorge Osvaldo FERRER
Chief of Staff
Argentine Navy

Vice-Admiral James COATES
Commander-in-Chief
Uruguayan Navy
